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ABSTRACT

Globalization, in contrast to internationalism as held and propounded by economics and trade and commerce like Maratha region is a process to integrate country including its economy and society with the global process. It aims at maximization of global welfare. Trade and commerce as a social is attempted to be integrated in the global process of economics where private motives including profit maximization play supreme over social welfare and well being maximization. Neo liberalism becomes the dominant economic-history leading to the distortion of social values, value economics and quality economics in a under-developed state like Maratha region. The trade and commerce in Maratha state a constituent empire of Marathas, is also influenced in the globalization process of economic in term of both contents and methods of work servants under trade and commerce in Maratha state. Against this backdrop the present paper discusses the diverse issues of trade and commerce under Maratha empire in relation to the globalization process in economic with special reference to Maratha state (Maharashtra) of India in the 17th -18th century.

Key words: Globalization, Economics, Trade and commerce, Social value, Underdeveloped

Introduction:

The Marathas were well aware of the importance of trade and commerce and made all efforts to encourage the growth of trade and commerce in the Maratha Empire. "Poona which was a very small town of no commercial significance whatsoever till 1750, rose to great prosperity in the second half of the century, thanks to its becoming the seat of the Marathas... It had been a general policy of the Maratha administrator to establish market wards in cities and towns by granting various concessions and hereditary Vatsans to those Mahajans and Shetes who would undertake to induce immigrant traders and artisans to settle in the new wards. In the second half of the eighteenth century many of the market wards in trading cities like Poona, Nasik, Solapur and Dharwar had been established in this way".[1]

Internal And Foreign Trade

As regards the trade, it was internal and foreign. The internal trade was of three kinds: 1) Coastal trade 2) River trade, and 3) Trade by land routes. The coastal trade was lucrative and the Maratha state gained much through it. Irrespective of the danger from the pirates the trade ships traded throughout the trading season.

The commercial harbors on the Western coast of Maratha region were the centers of trade, and they had all commercial contacts with other ports of India. The trading ships were loaded with merchandise at seaports like Bassein, Banknote and pen and were unloaded at Bombay. The ships loaded with rice from Pen, carried it to Banknote, and via Nagothana it

reached Bombay. "The vessels from Kalyan-Bhivandi brought rice in large quantities to the port of Bombay every year".[2]

The trade of Maratha Empire had good contact with the eastern coast of India. During natural calamities like famine, food grains like rice were imported to Maratha state from Bengal.

In 1790 the vessels owned by the Britishers brought 9719 bags of rice from Bengal which was sold in Maharashtra. The other imports which were brought from Bengal to Maratha state were silk, calico, linen, chintz, pure silk, woolen fabric, turbans and shawls.[3]

This reveals that a lucrative market in Maharashtra was available for Bengali Textile Industry. The goods like sugar, Opium, long paper, peepalmul, Dry ginger, turmeric, summonsed, black seed, Hemp rope, gunnvs, saltpeter, Mugger doo ties, slyest ditto, raw silk piece goods, cotton piece goods, film ill etc. were also regularly imported from Bengal to Maharashtra.[4] The English traders regularly brought rum, and arrack from Bengal to Bombay which found a good market in Maratha state.

Bison's horns from Malbar and Cochi were imported to Western Maharashtra as fancy goods were made from such horns in certain places.[5] The goods such as salt and lead were brought to Maharashtra from Hubali.[6] Trading ships from Goa brought tin, paper, dry coconuts, betel nuts, spices, quick silver, lead, saffron, vermillion, copper, wax candles, board cloth, raw silk, muskets etc. to Maharashtra. The trading by East India Company (Bombay Presidency) with the Maratha state had flourished in the last three

decades of 18th century and first two decades of the 19th century. However we learn from Malet's[7] reports that the trade received a great setback during the first Anglo-Maratha war.

The spices such as pepper, turmeric, ginger, cardamom, sesame, gingili etc, food stuff metals textiles etc, were exported from the Maratha state to Bombay presidency. The food stuffs consisting of nagly rice, wheat, mug, toor, gram, sugar etc. metals copper iron, lead etc. and textiles consisting of shawls, wool, cotton etc. were exported to Bombay. Other goods exported to Bombay were arrack, bhang, tobacco, belts, coir, etc. The annual import of four years from the Maratha state to Bombay was as mentioned below.

Years	Valuation in Rupees
1773-74 (from May 73 to April 74)	Rs 484835
1777-78 (from May 77 to April 78)	Rs 851680
1779-80 (from May 79 to April 80)	Rs. 1104710
1786-87 (from May 86 to April 87)	Rs. 877712

From the same records we learn about the export of sugar from the Maratha State to Bombay.

The details are as follow:

Year	Weight	Value in Rupees
1773-74	4526 Mounds Sugar	Rs. 3933
1777-78	7143 Mounds Sugar	Rs. 2148
1778-80	1059 Mounds Sugar	Rs. 3177
1786-87	5633 Mounds	Rs. 19714

This table reveals that on an average the yearly export of sugar from the Maratha state to Bombay was 4242 maunds. It also shows that the trade of sugar increased vigorously after the first Anglo-Maratha war was over.

From the same records we collect very interesting information about the trading of food grains from the Maratha state to Bombay. The table given below depicts a clear idea regarding the export of food grains.

Name of Commodity	Year	Weight	Value in Rupees
Rice	1773-74	7682	92184
Wheat	1779-80	Khandis 09	135
Rice	1779-80	Khandis 7855	204230
Wheat	1779-80	Khandis 439	6585
Rice	1786-87	Khandis 17454	191994
Wheat	1786-87	Khandis 1781	26715

Other essential articles were also exported from the Maratha state to Bombay. We learn from the letter of Malet[8] the emanative account of imports and exports between Bombay and the Maratha State. It is explained in the table given below.

From this table we can draw two conclusions:

1) The exports of articles from the Maratha State to Bombay during first Anglo-Maratha war were not in

Year Imports from the Maratha State To Bombay Valued in Rs.	Exported articles from Bombay to the Maharashtra State
1) Board cloth Bales Bundles Pieces Valued In Rs.	2) copper Japan Copper plates, sheets, bags, valued In Rs.
	3) Iron Bars pieces bundles Valued In Rs.

1773-74 Rs. 484835	2470	5975+655	8142
Before the war			
1777-78 Rs. 851680	715	36181	4787
1779-80 Rs 1104710	499	3442+521	1255
During the war			
1786-87 Rs 877712	805	30214 +1071	5665
After treaty of sable			

any way disturbed and the imports at Bombay were regular and greater.

2) However the imports from Bombay to the Maratha State declined during the war. Consequently the Marathas could not get board cloth and the iron from the East India Company during the war. But the trade increased again during 1779-80. The English Traders exported valuable articles to the Maratha State. It was always more profitable to the Britishers.

From the available records we learn that the Maratha State imported silken cloth (Paithani) from Paithan which was situated in Nizam State. The white cloth and chintz from Burhanpur had a good market at Poona. Rice, salt and groceries were brought from Konkan to Poona.[9] Turbans from Ahmadabad were very popular in Maharashtra which was generally sold at Rs 15 to 30 in the markets of the Maratha region. We learn from the records of Dabhade Dattar that there was a regular supply of quality cloth goods from province of Varhad to the prants of Poona and Junner varhad imported salt, rice etc, from Konkan.[10] Washim and Balapur were famous trading centers in Berar and it seems that peshwa madhaorao I purchased clothes from Washim and Balapur.[11] The Dhoties manufactured at Paithan were very popular in Poona region and consequently had a good market there.[12] The shelas, turbans, saris, white, coloured and plain clothes were imported regularly to Poona market from Paithan. Cloth from Narayanpet was also imported to Poona. White cotton goods were imported from Andhra Pradesh and Machhalipatta was a famous trading centre. Silk goods and kinkhabs were imported to Poona from Gukrat. Opium was brought to Maharashtra from Malwa. War weapons like bows and swords were imported from Northern Provinces like Malwa, Ahmedabad and bundelkhand.[13]

Cannons were imported from Surat.[14] Chh. Shahu had a special choice for Chinese silken clothes, makhmal etc. He imported them from the Portuguese of Goa.[15] It has been observed from the historical records that mostly the consumer goods and wood were exported from Poona.[16]

The cavalry was the most important wing of the Maratha army; the horses from various places were brought to Poona and other regional centers of the Maratha State. Horses from Lahore and Siranj were brought to the Deccan. The camels were brought from Udaipur to Poona. Elephants were imported to Poona from Burhanpur.[17] Rohe was a famous port which received animals from Mascot and then they found market in various places of the Maratha State. Candles and fragrant essences figured in the important luxury articles which had good market in the Maratha region. These articles were imported from Europe and the English, the Portuguese, and the Dutch merchants sold them in Maharashtra. Bombay and Damon were famous ports in this connection.[18]

With an intention to retain warm relations with the Maratha rulers, the European merchants presented valuable articles to them. For example, Col. Upton presented clothes worth rupees 3440 and 8 annas to the Maratha. Mostin, an agent of Bombay Presidency presented clothes worth Rs. 1750 a portrait of Lord Krishna and a clock with its key and other things to the Maratha [19] Even the Portuguese were equally enthusiastic in this regard.[20] Such presentations had a clear intention of winning special favors from the Maratha administrator and create a taste among the royal families for the goods traded by the Europeans. The second intention cherished by them was to get more and more concessions for them in the Maratha State. Consequently the Europeans in general and the English in particular could get the remission of octroi duty.

The Articles Imported to Maharashtra

In the 18th century horses constituted a very important item of import trade. They were imported through the ports Rajapur and Rohe. The ships loaded with horses were unloaded at Rohe or Rajapur. Maskat was a famous centre of horse trade. The Maratha ruler used to appoint agents at Mask to purchase good horses. Some expert appointed by the Maratha ruler had an

assignment at Maskat to select excellent horses for the Maratha cavalry. It is interesting to note that some Maratha families engaged in horse trade settled at Mask at.[21] Kabul was also a good centre of horse trading. Sadagiri and Arabia horses were generally imported from Kabul.[22] Dry fruits, sugar and spices constituted some other imported articles to the Maratha region from the West Asian countries like Iran and Afghanistan. Tobacco, fruits, furs, alum, dried dates etc. were imported from the West Asian countries. The English traders were engaged in the tobacco trade which they used to purchase at Bagdad. Sugar, silken cloth and silk were imported from China. Raw silk was brought from China to the Maratha region by the English trader. [23] Some of the centre in Maratha state engaged in manufacturing silk cloth imported the raw silk from Persia.[24] Lead, candles, tobacco, knives, ivory, binoculars, mirrors, watches, paper clothes, thermometers etc. were imported to Maratha from Europe and the English, the French, the Dutch, the Portuguese were engaged in this trade.

The Articles Exported from Maharashtra

The export trade of the Maratha region was comparatively less. It consisted of clothes like fine linen, gum, lack, paper, corn etc. Such articles were generally purchased by the traders at Balaghat.[25] From the valuable historical records one can safely draw the inference that Maharashtra in the 18th century had a flourishing trade with foreign markets and port located in West Asia, South East Asia, Arabia, Europe and Africa,

Conclusion; From my study of economic policy during the Maratha period I have safely drawn certain inferences. It is observed that Elphinstone's conclusion is not correct in this connection. It might be much more than what Elphinstone mentioned as the export and inside trade was flourishing enormously in the Maratha state under the Maratha rulers in the later half of 18th century. It seems that trade and commerce had flourished during 17th - 18th century period in the Maratha state. All sources of income were tapped by the Maratha government. Internal and foreign traders had to pay per cent tax on tier commodities. It constituted a large amount of income for the Maratha government.

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